G.A.R.

THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

S.U.V.C.W.

THE CLARION CALL

Newsletter of the Department of Massachusetts

1866 VOLUME No. 5 ISSUE No. 1 July 2005 1881

123rd Department Encampment

Oxford, MA: The 123rd Department Encampment began with a wreath laying ceremony at the gravesite of Clara Barton located in North Cemetery, Oxford, MA. A contingent of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in uniform led by Department Commander John W. Bates marched to the gravesite. There, Department Patriotic Instructor George Maple made an appropriate speech about the "Angel of the Battlefield". PI Maple spoke about her as a person who was a doer who got things done. (More on Clara Barton page 9).

Auburn, MA In the Lexington Room of the Yankee Drummer Inn, a memorial to past department commanders was presented by Brother Frank Tucker of Charles H. Bond Camp #104. D.C. John W, Bates III was assisted by National Commander-in-Chief Steven A. Michaels with draping the Charter. As Brother Tucker announced the names, DC Bates rang the bell. Following Brother Tucker was a presentation made about Clara Barton and her many contributions to the Civil War, the Red Cross and about her locating thousands of missing soldiers. The audience asked various questions about Clara Barton, who was already 40 when she began her nursing of Civil War soldiers. Among those in attendance was Brother Robert Ducharme of A.A. Sherman Camp #18 who assisted in identifying over 45 names on a quilt located at the Clara Barton Museum that included four major generals. The final presentation was given by Willie Grout Camp #25's Monument/Memorials Officer, Reynaldo Rodriguez as he discussed "Massachusetts Monuments in the 21st Century". Choosing a few select monuments, Brother Rodriguez was able to educate the audience on how to go monument hunting. "The great thing about monument hunting is that the monuments don't move. It's finding them, especially the forgotten ones that can be an adventure." (Continued on page 8)

Brother Bob Ducharme (Photo by B.Ryerson)

DC Bates & NCinC Michaels drapes Charter for Memorial (Photo by B. Ryerson)

NCinC Michaels lights candle for Memorial (Photo by B. Ryerson)

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Memorial Ceremonies at the National Cemetery

Bourne, MA On Sunday May 29,2005, members of the SUVCW of MA participated in the annual Memorial Ceremonies at the National Cemetery. The unit marched in the parade and then General Logan's Memorial Order was read to all in attendance which included other veteran organizations. DC John Bates placed a wreath during the ceremony. Immediately following, the SUVCW of MA marched to the gravesite of the "Unknown MA Soldiers" and gave a memorial tribute which included placing flowers and a three volley musket salute.

Conn. Dept. Commander (dual member of Dept. of Mass.) begins term with Memorial Tribute to Dr. Harry Allen Grant

Enfield, CT On Friday May 27, 2005, CT Dept. Commander Donald Reid organized a memorial weekend ceremony in honor of his camp's namesake Doctor Harry Allen Grant. Gathered for the ceremony was a riffle squad (Alden Skinner Camp #45 with MADPI George Maple) which fired three volleys. They then performed a rarely seen move with rifles facing down and placing their hands and heads on the but of their rifles. The squad then slowly raised the muzzles in unison to shoulder arms. In attendance were direct descendants of George B. Henry an original charter member of H. A. Grant Camp #24, B. William Henry from Oregon's Col. Edward D. Baker Camp #6, his sister, Helen Voto and their cousin David Henry from Maryland and his brother Jack Henry from Massachusetts. The ceremony's chaplin was Rev. Cannon Robert G. (Jerry) Caroon, a PDC, PNChaplin. CTDC Reid read General Logan's Memorial Day Order, B. William Henry read and explained "The American Creed" and read "The Unknown Dead" by James E. Ratigan, and Helen Voto with CTDC Reid placed flowers as well as a flag and marker.

CTDC Don Ried and Helen Voto place flag holder and flowers at monument.

Civil War Monument Dedicated

Erving, MA : On May 21,2005, a group of dedicated Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War from the Department of Massachusetts joined in the Memorial Ceremony and Historic Dedication of a Civil War Monument to the 16 fallen soldiers from Erving, MA. Among those who marched, Camp 25 Commander George Maple carried the colors for the 10th/25th M.V.I., among that group marched Camp 15's William Czerwonka and Edward Knight, who blew taps on two occasions, once at the bridge wreathing and again at the monument dedication. That group was followed by the 15th M.V.I. Sons of Veterans Reserve Unit led by SVR Major Peter Rotando of Camp 18, among the 15th were Color Bearer Pvt. Reynaldo Rodriguez of Camp 25, Pvt. Robert Ducharme of Camp 18 and Camp 15 Commander Pvt. Steven Twining. At the ceremony there were other members in attendance watching the momentous occasion. They were Camp 18 Commander Roy Henry, Benjamin Emerick, Joseph Vecchione and Frank Haley all of Camp 18, Edward Ahaesy, James Aheasy, and Benjamin Duce all of Camp 25.

Pictured around the newest Civil War Monument are SUVCW Brothers: Peter Rotando, William Czerwonka, Steven Twining, George Maple, Roy Henry, Reynaldo Rodriguez, Robert Ducharme and Edward Knight

SEE THE OLDEST MASS CIVIL WAR MONUMENT on Page 5!

CLARION CALL CORRECTON: Ed Coyne Camp 104

Due to an error in transcription the 10th and 11th lines in the article "Who Is Frederick H. Metzger" on page 8 of our April 2005 issue should read as follows:
(He became a member of the G.A.R. Post 120, Department of Pennsylvania, working his way up to Department Commander in 1884. Frederick left that state around 1886)

EBER HILL 1 & 9 Independent Massachusetts Light Artillery

Woburn, MA: Just last year Brother Ed Norris reported that Pvt. Eber Hill's stone was completely covered and broken. Now there is a new bronze stone for all to see in Cavalry Cemetery! **A Clarion Call Huzzah** goes out to the combined efforts of Brother Ed Norris **Camp 25,** Brother William Ryerson **Camp 104,** Brother Frank Haley **Camp 18**, and Brother Ed Parks **Camp 22** as well as other members of the Department of Massachusetts's Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War that made it happen!!

A memorial tribute is being planned , full coverage in the October issue of the Clarion Call

Roger Olsen Award

Auburn, MA Created to encourage more participation from members, especially those considered 'unsung', choosing the first recipient was no easy task for the Department Commander. D.C. Bates eventually decided on co-recipients. The first recipient of the award has been very active for many years and the award was also a life time achievement award**. L.A. Tift Camp #15's** Gage Hotaling, who unfortunately could not attend the encampment, has always been an active member and at age 90 is still making things happen. The other recipient who also has and continues to be active is **A.A. Sherman Camp #18's** Commander Roy Henry. The Clarion Call gives them both a **"Huzzah!!!"** Anyone wishing to nominate a member for next year, please send letter to the Department Secretary.

Willie Grout Camp 25 Memorial Cleanup!

Future Auxiliary Member? Elisha Duce joins in the clean up of the GAR Lots in Hope Cemetery for Memorial Day 2005

SUVCW Connecticut Department Commander Don Ried, dual member of Camp 25 places flags during the Memorial 2005 Clean up.

Brother Ed Norris cutting grass during the clean up.

BUMPER STICKER FUND IN ACTION!!!

Worcester, Ma: For Memorial Day 2005, 10 brand new flag holders were placed on the gravesites of 10 civil war veterans buried in 3 of 4 cemeteries in Worcester, Massachusetts. A **Clarion Call Huzzah** goes out to the **Department of Massachusetts** and especially to those who continue to support the bumper sticker campaign. Please keep up the effort, for the day will come when every Civil War Veteran has a flag over their gravesite.

Receiving flag holders courtesy of SUVCW Dept. of Mass;
Hope Cemetery: **Pvt. William Doe** 9th MA L/A,
Notre Dame Cemetery:
Lt. Bruno L. Trombly 20th USCT Inf., Pvt. **Peter Trombly** 16th NY Cav,
Rural Cemetery:
Sgt. John G. Brewer 21st MA Inf, **Pvt. Charles A. Goddard** 51st MA Inf., **Pvt. Luther D. Goddard** 15th MA Inf., **Cpt. Woodbury C. Smith** 34th MA Inf., **Pvt. Lewis S. Carpenter** 4th MA H/A, **Pvt. Royal S. Pierce** 51st MA Inf., **Lt. John A. Rice** 36th MA Inf.

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Oldest Monument in Massachusetts Memorial Ceremony

Col. Frank Tucker with SUVCW members

Somerville, MA: On Tuesday May 31,2005, Department Commander John Bates along with Chaplin Gage Hotaling and other SUVCW members in uniform, honored the first Civil War Monument in Massachusetts. The monument is the centerpiece to a cemetery located on Somerville Avenue. The cemetery itself was recently cleaned up by a dedicated group of citizens.

SEE THE NEWEST MASS CW MONUMENT ON PAGE 3!

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR'S CORNER

Brothers,

At the Department Encampment I had mixed emotions on the attendance. Although it was great to have a large number of delegates, only 5 camps were represented. I urge you to attend department meetings so that YOU WILL BE HEARD. You can even host a department meeting in your area by contacting the Department Commander. To host, you just need to reserve space at a restaurant that will give you the room to use in exchange for a guarantee that 20 meals will be sold. Bickfords is a good example. By taking an ACTIVE role you debunk those who never heard of us or think we no longer exist.

I've attended various camp meetings throughout the state and noticed a couple problems. First, that the patriotic instructor's need to have a presentation. Business meetings are great, but most members are not going to go to every meeting. Break it up with some historical presentation meeting that will grab the attention of those absentee members. Try having members present about their ancestors or the camp or post's namesake. GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO ENJOY. The other is attendance which will change if you have something to present. If your camp is planning an activity let the Department Signals officer know so that it can be put on the website so that your brothers can find out about it and support your efforts by attending.

Always in Fraternity, Charity, Loyalty,

George Maple

Department Patriotic Instructor

PLENTY OF TARTAN TIES AVAILABLE, GET YOURS WHILE THEY LAST>>>FROM CAMP 104……

Resetting An Almost Buried Gravestone

Ed Norris, Graves Registration Officer, Willie Grout Camp #25

Marlboro, MA I was walking through the Maplewood Cemetery in Marlborough and noticed a soldier's government gravestone had been slowly disappearing from view (see first picture). Instead of bypassing the stone, I took some notes on location within the cemetery and whose gravestones were near this one. The next day, I looked up the Marlborough Cemetery Department and placed a call. I explained to the person who I am (a member of the S.U.V.C.W.), where the stone was located, and asked if he could reset the gravestone. The person I spoke to told me he would look into it.

The next day the gravestone was reset and this soldier, whose name might have been lost forever, is once again visible for all to see and honor.

Walter S. Goss was with Co. A of the 7th Mass. Infantry. When he enlisted, he was a shoemaker from Fall River. He served from June 15, 1861 until May 3, 1863 when he was wounded at Fredericksburg. Goss finished his military service with Co. F of the 20th V.R.C. and was mustered out on June 15, 1864. After the war, he was a member of the John A. Rawlins Post 43. Goss died June 15, 1924.

If you run across a gravestone that is slowly disappearing, take a few minutes to record some information and make a phone call. It will only take a few minutes of your time and is a great way to keep alive the memory of our Civil War ancestors.

I want to thank Robert Kasaras and his crew at the Marlborough Cemetery Department for their quick action to reset the gravestone.

1st Civil War Mini Expo at Worcester State College

Worcester, MA: On April 25, 2005, members of Willie Grout Camp #25 and A.A. Sherman Camp #18 joined resources and sponsored the 1st Civil War Mini Expo at Worcester State College. Among the replicas and displays were guest speakers. Among them, Gen. George Hartsuff Camp #50's Dean Sargent who spoke about his trip through Arkansas. Brother Sargent told the audience which included members of the Auxiliary SUVCW from Springfield, how he found a cemetery with rows of unknowns. With some research, Brother Sargent was able to identify the unknowns for the cemetery. Another speaker was Robert Ducharme of A.A. Sherman Camp #18. Brother Durcharme gave a talk on his favorite civil war topic, 15th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry . One of the unique displays included one on Massachusetts Civil War Monuments in the 21st Century put together by Willie Grout Camp #25's Rey Rodriguez. Also a highlight was the display and presentation of Civil War medicine done by Brother Joe Vecchione. Other topics on display were Andersonville, Clara Barton, Women in the Civil War, Various Civil War Military Branches…. With the success of the program a 2nd Civil War Mini Expo isn't too far off in the future! The REAL story here is that a unified effort from three camps made it happen! There was even one young visitor about 20 years old who is seriously considering membership. **A Clarion Call Huzzah to Camp 18, Camp 25 and Camp 50!!!**

My Adopted Civil War Ancestor

Andrew B. Yeomans

15th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry

By Robert Ducharme, A.A. Sherman Camp #18

Andrew B. Yeomans was born in Webster, MA., on October 11, 1835, the son of Charles and Sarah (Frazer) Yeomans. At the time of the Civil War, this 25 year old man, who by now had become a resident of Oxford, MA., enlisted in the Dewitt Guards, a militia company in Oxford, that would ultimately be mustered into federal service as Company E of the 15th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment on July 12, 1861. At the time of his enlistment he gave his occupation as a painter.

While serving in the Peninsular Campaign he was taken prisoner at White Oak swamp during the battle of Nelson's farm on June 30, 1862. After being sent to a Confederate prison camp at Belle Island in Richmond, VA., for nearly two months, he was paroled and returned to his regiment on August 10, 1862. He was promoted to the rank of corporal in July of 1863, after the battle of Gettysburg, PA., and to sergeant on May 1, 1864, just prior to the battle of the Wilderness.

When Andrew Yeoman's regiment left Worcester they were 1,000 strong. During the three years that Yeoman was part of the 15th , the regiment would go as high as 1765 men. Sgt. Yeomans was no one of 77 members left when on June 22, 1864, they were surrounded by Confederate troops and captured. After his capture he was once again sent to Belle Island, where he remained until June 29th. He was then taken with the rest of the prisoners, by rail to Lynchburg enroute to their proposed destination of Andersonville Prison. Upon reaching Lynchburg, Yeoman made his escape while being marched around a break in the railroad. He eventually worked his way through Confederate lines reaching Union territory in Knoxville, TN., on August 11. During this period of six weeks, he traveled a distance of 300 miles. Since his term of service had expired by that time, he was sent home and was discharged in Boston on August 24, 1864. (An interesting not-upon reaching Knoxville, he was in rags so he was issued a new uniform. He was then sent back to Boston to be mustered out where he was given his back pay and charged for the new uniform.)

Shortly after returning home, Yeomans married Harriet Hall of Millbury on October 10, 1864 and resumed his occupation as a house painter. Andrew and Harriet had two daughters, Althea, who was born and died in 1865, and Gertrude who was born on January 25, 1861.

He was Commander of the Charles Devens Post 27 G.A.R. of Oxford in 1868 and mustered in the 11 charter members of the Nathaniel Lyons Post 61 G.A.R. of Webster on July 14, 1868. Throughout his life he held numerous other offices in the Post and was active in their affairs until his death.

Sometime during 1878, while he was painting a house in North Oxford, Yeomans was on a staging that fell, resulting in a break to his left ankle. The injury caused him "considerable suffering" for the next ten years. At about this time, he was also the Oxford Town Clerk and Assessor during 1878-1879. In 1890 he applied for a disability pension stating that the break in his ankle cause him to develop rheumatism and made it difficult to perform his trade as a painter. On July 19, 1890, Yeomasn was awarded a pension of $8.00 per month. Finally, on December 9, 1893, shortly after he and Harriet had moved to Worcester, pneumonia succeeded in doing what three years of the Civil War was unable to do. Andrew Burrell Yeoman died at the age of 58 years, 2 months, and 18 days. Like so many other men from Oxford, he now rests in North Cemetery located on Main Street in Oxford.

PAST MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Allan B. Howland was elected National Commander-in-Chief at the 92nd National Encampment in Palm Springs, California in 1973. Brother Howland's grandfather, Alzono Howland served with Co. A, 3rd Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War. Brother Howland joined **Gen. Hartsuff Camp #50 in Rockland**, Mass., on August 18, 1926 and was Camp Commander in 1929. He was elected Massachusetts Department Commander in 1928. Brother Howland was also President of the Hartsuff Post Memorial Association, Inc. which maintains only Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall in Rockland, Massachusetts still owned by the Massachusetts Department of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Brother Howland has also held the National offices of Patriotic Instructor, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief and Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

(Continued from page 1)

Auburn, MA: On Saturday, the budget for the new year was discussed and the end results was a balanced budget for first time in years. One of the contested line items was the Gettysburg Remembrance Day Trip. A trip that DC John Bates supports as "a necessity for the future of the organization". DJVC Kevin Tucker who has worked very hard the last five years providing an affordable trip to the annual Remembrance Day ceremonies held in Gettysburg reported that the goal is to keep the trip under $200.00 so that as many members as possible can make the trip. It also helps in recruiting potential members. For anyone to do it on their own would be difficult. This is because booking a room, for example, needs to be done well in advance or else members will be staying as far away as Harrisburg which is a good hour from Gettysburg.

Although all Department Officers were reelected, two offices, Junior Vice Commander and Treasurer had two new challengers and both incumbents won by a very close margin. DJVC Kevin Tucker received 13 votes as his opponent Patriotic Instructor George Maple received 10. Treasurer Ed Parks received 12 votes as his opponent John Abbott received 10. All in all the department is in good hands with returning officers prepared for second terms in office.

Officers elected for the **2005-2006** term: Department Commander John W. Bates PDC, Department Senior Vice Commander Perley Mellor, Department Junior Vice Commander Kevin Tucker, Department Secretary William T. Ryerson PDC, Department Treasurer Edward Parks PDC, Department Council Reynaldo Rodriguez, Peter Rotando, and Steven Twining.

The banquet included the first presentation of the Roger Olson award (page 4). In attendance was National Commander-in-Chief Steven Michaels as well as members of the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The 123rd Department Encampment was able to resolve a host of matters as is the goal of every encampment. The average attendance was about 30, which is 10% of the membership. See you next year for the 124th Encampment!

Clara Barton was so close to fighting at Antietam that a bullet passed through her clothes and killed a wounded soldier that she was treating.

The American Civil War Era Remembered:

"You should never so much as think weather you like it or not, weather it is bearable or not; you must never think of anything except the need, and how to meet it."-Clara Barton

Clarissa Harlow Barton was born on December 25, 1821 in Oxford, Massachusetts. She was the fifth and youngest child of a middle-class family that educated the children at home. At age 15, she began an 18-year teaching career. Barton was 39 and working in the U.S. Patent Office in Washington D.C. when the War of Rebellion broke out in 1861. She began organizing relief programs in the city, which led to her aiding the wounded from the 1st Battle of Bull Run.

In 1862, she received permission from Surgeon General William Hammond to travel with the army "for the purpose of distributing comforts for the sick and wounded, and nursing them." Clara Barton, saw her job as "staunching blood and feeding fainting men" and her post as "the open field between the bullet and the hospital." For the next three years, Barton earned a national reputation as the "angel of the battlefield" for her work in caring for Union wounded. She was described by one surgeon as an "independent Sanitary Commission of one". At President Abraham Lincoln's request, Clara Barton led the search at the end of the war for the many missing soldiers, traveling to Andersonville, Ga., to identify the graves of Union prisoners.

Clara Barton was on a badly needed vacation in Europe in 1869 when the Franco-Prussian War broke out. She had been there when she first hear of the Geneva Treaty which 12 nationals agreed to guarantee the care of sick and wounded soldiers regardless of uniform, thus the Red Cross was established. The Franco-Prussian War gave Clara Barton a chance to see the International Red Cross in action. She volunteered and assisted the organization with their efforts to aid the war's victims. Upon her return to the United States, she worked to establish the American Red Cross, finally achieving that goal in 1881. Appointed president of the organization (which she held for 23 years), she succeeded in having the U.S. join the Geneva Agreement on treatment of prisoners and wounded and saw the Red Cross's role expand to include relief aid to victims of natural disasters. In 1898, Clara Barton was in Cuba during the Spanish American War and was again able to able her hard working talents.

In 1904, at the age of 83, Clara Barton resigned her post as president of the American Red Cross. She retired to her home in Glen Echo, Maryland, where she died eight years later on April 12, 1912.

The **Clara Barton Birthplace Museum** (Just 7 miles southwest of Worcester) is located at 68 Clara Barton Road, North Oxford, Massachusetts. Hours June 15 to Labor Day Wed-Sun from 11-5, From Labor Day to June 15 Sat. 1-4 or by appointment. **Website: www.clarabartonbirthplace.org**

N.E.R.A .JULY MEETING

The Annual Meeting of NERA (New England Regional Association SUVCW) will again be held the third Saturday in July, (**July 16**) at the N.H. Veteran's Association Building at the Weirs in Laconia, NH, which is on the Weirs and is the last building before amusement area, has a brass cannon and flag pole out front and is opposite the pier were the SS Mt. Washington is docks. Registration starts at 9AM and meeting starts at 10AM. At noon, lunch will be held at the White Church nearby together with members of the Auxiliary and then a joint meeting of the Auxiliary in the afternoon. Meal reservation should be made by sending $9.00 each to: Secretary Richard Woodbury at 41 Green Road, Newport, N.H. 03773. Checks made to Dept. of NH SUVCW.

G.A.R.

1866

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Newsletter of the Department of Massachusetts

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

S.U.V.C.W.

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VISIT THE DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS WEBSITE AT:

www.suvmass.org

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